

of the non-native, but widely grown and sometimes naturalising, Large Yellow Ox-eye, *Telekia speciosa* (Schreber) Baumg.

The holes had been made by larvae of a plume moth which reared out as *O. lithodactyla*. This plant, until recently in the genus *Bupthalmum*, is in the same tribe (Inuleae) of the family Compositae as the usual native foodplant, Fleabane, *Pulicaria dysenterica* (L.) Bernh.

Adults of another plume moth *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla* (Hübner) can be seen at times during summer, flitting over the very fine heather garden at Ness.

Records suggest that neither of these plume moths is particularly common in the wild in Cheshire or adjacent parts of Clwyd. They may have been originally introduced into the garden on plants.— B. & I.D. WALLACE, Liverpool Museum.

A second brood of the Broad-bordered Bee-hawk in 1989

After my departure in September for my annual stay in Cape Town, Mr Eric Wood continued our observations of Lepidoptera at the north end of Slapton Sands, South Devon.

Mr Wood observed at least six specimens of *Hemaris fuciformis* L. (Lep.: Sphingidae) on 30th October 1989, two more on 1st November and a final four on 4th November, all feeding on valerian and confined to a small area under the cliffs.

One moth rested on a plant and so the transparent central area of the wings together with the broad banded edges could be clearly seen. Although superficially similar on the wing to *Macroglossum stellatarum* L., the Humming-bird Hawk, they feed much closer to the flowers. The moth is normally on the wing in May and June, although a partial second brood has been recorded elsewhere in the hot summer of 1976.— H.L. O'HEFFERNAN, 24 Green Park Way, Chillington, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 2HY.

***Stigmella samiatella* (Zell.) (Lep.: Nepticulidae) — a new record for Wiltshire**

On 26th October 1989 at Redlynch in Wiltshire my brother and I came across a mine on a leaf of sweet chestnut, *Castanea sativa*. Suspecting that it might be *Stigmella samiatella* I sent the mine to Col. A.M. Emmet who kindly confirmed that it was that species.

The appearance of *S. samiatella* at Redlynch is a new County record for Wiltshire.— E.G. SMITH, Bullen Hill Farm, Ashton Common, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Early sightings of butterflies in the Isle of Wight in 1990

With above average temperatures at the end of February and during March, this spring has been even warmer than 1989, resulting in early

sightings of butterflies from around the Island. I have collected records of nine species, one more than in 1989 which were seen before the end of March.

Amongst the hibernating butterflies *Inachis io* L. was seen as early as 8th January, flying in the sunshine at Newtown; *Polygonia c-album* L. on 2nd February at Luccombe and Freshwater; *Aglais urticae* L. on 22nd February at Luccombe and over forty *Gonepteryx rhamni* L. were observed flying in the sunshine at Firestone Copse, Wooton, on 23rd February. Amongst those butterflies which emerge in the spring *Pararge aegeria* L. was reported from Queen's Bower on 15th March; *Celastrina argiolus* L. from Cowes on 18th March, and *Pieris rapae* L. was reported from Freshwater on 22nd March.

Two migrant butterflies were recorded and these were *Vanessa atalanta* L. on 18th January at Newtown and three on 22nd February at Luccombe, and *Cynthia cardui* L. on 12th and 19th March at St Lawrence and on 22nd March at Freshwater.

Compared with 1989 *Pararge aegeria* L. was seen 13 days earlier, *Celastrina argiolus* L. ten days earlier and *Pieris rapae* L. four days earlier. During early April the first *Anthocharis cardamines* L. was seen at Gurnard on the 1st, and on the 11th April *Pieris brassicae* L. at Freshwater and *Lycaena phlaeas* L. at Mottistone.

It seems that this year is on the average about ten days earlier than the year previous. The *Inachis io* L. sighting on 8th January breaks the record for the earliest sighting in England in the last hundred years.— S.A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

The ecological distinctness of *Asaphidion flavipes* (Linnaeus) and *Asaphidion curtum* (Heyden) (Col.: Carabidae)

My experience with *Asaphidion flavipes* (L.) suggests that it is a species exclusively of the margins of water bodies. Along the River Severn I have observed it from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire well to the south, but never in anything other than riparian habitats, on silty mud subject to regular inundation. This experience was confirmed in 1989 by observations at Izvir Save in the foothills of the Julian Alps, Slovenia.

Asaphidion curtum (Heyden) is not a species dependent on the riparian environment. In Worcestershire, during the last decade it has been found in summer in open, ancient, wet woodland at a number of sites, and, in winter, under the bark of elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) on Bredon Hill (SO 9741, 30.xi.1987) and under a haypile in an orchard at Broadway (SP 03, 7.xii.1988). It has also been found in shaded gardens in Liverpool (SJ 3986, 30.v.1984) and Pershore (SO 9445, 13.v.1986) on mineral soils. Winter records of *A. curtum* in the Worcestershire Avon valley are of specimens flushed from hibernacula by rising water.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3EP.